MUDA SCANS
IS
RECRUITING NEW POSITIONS
TRANSLATORS
CLEANERS
TYPESETTERS
PROOFERS
WOULD LOVE TO HEAR YOUR FEEDBACK
QUALITY CHECKERS
RAW-PROVIDERS
JOIN OUR FORUMS!
ANYONE IS WELCOME
MAKING THIS FACTOOR SO LONG!!!
WE HAVE COOKIES!
#MUDA-SCANLATIONS @ IRC.IRCHIGHWAY.NET
MUDASCANTRAD.COM

Muda Scantrad
スキャンレーション

TRANSLATOR: LIMEBOSHI110
RAW: ABCD9146
EDITORS: KAGEHITSU, QASZ
TYPESETTER: SUNINLIN
QUALITY CHECK: HEIDENREX, SUNINLIN

NOW... WE CAN KILL HER FOR SURE...!
OR RATHER, NOW...
IS OUR ONE
AND ONLY CHANCE...

THERE'S NO NEED TO KILL HER. OUR GOAL IS TO GET OUT OF HERE.

LET'S GO HOME FOR NOW.

TH—

GIVE IT A REST ALREADY...

RUNNING AWAY FROM REALITY.

THE UNEASINESS LEFT IN YOUR HEART AFTER KILLING AN ENEMY IS THE SAME FOR ANYONE.

BUT THE REALITY FOR US IS THAT, UNLESS WE OVERCOME IT... WE CAN'T SURVIVE.

THE NEWEST VOLUME 5 IS ON SALE!

IN THE FACE OF THE ENEMY, SHE DOES NOT DIE.
IN ORDER TO LIVE, SHE WOULD GIVE UP BEING HUMAN—

Re:BIRTH
The Lunatic Taker

STORY: LIM DALL-YOUNG ART: LEE SOO-HYON

!
TAKE A LOOK
ARE YOU SAYING THAT TRYING TO LIVE WITHOUT KILLING PEOPLE IS AVOIDING REALITY?
THAT THING... IS NOT "HUMAN."
WHO'S RUNNING!?
むっ
04
ソバッ
THAT'S A TAKER, THE ENEMY.
IF WE DON'T KILL IT, WE WILL BE KILLED... BY THE STRONGEST TAKER.

I GOT IT .. SO, LET'S GO. THIS IS ENOUGH FOR TODAY.
REIJI!? YOU'RE STILL SAYING THINGS LIKE THAT..
ぐぐっ

05

NEE-SAN, PLEASE.
WE'RE GOING HOME.

WE HAVE TO FINISH HER OFF NOW OR WE'LL BE TARGETED NEXT!
……!!
NOW'S THE ONLY TIME! IT HAS TO BE NOW…!
NEE-SAN!
I HAVE MY OWN PLANS, AS WELL.
NATSUHI, LET'S GO.
I'M NOT GOING!
WE HAVE TO GO HOME RIGHT NOW!
PLEASE DO AS I SAY, JUST THIS ONCE!

LET GO OF ME!
EVEN THOUGH THE ENEMY IS ONLY THINKING ABOUT KILLING YOU...! DON'T BE NAIVE!
HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO KEEP SAYING THINGS LIKE "LIFE IS PRECIOUS" OR "I WON'T KILL OTHERS"!?

HOW LONG DO YOU PLAN ON ACTING HIGH-AND-MIGHTY WITH YOUR BABBLING!?
I SACRIFICED EVERYTHING IN ORDER TO LET YOU LIVE! BUT LOOK AT YOU!
BECAUSE WE BECAME TINKERS! HOW MANY TIMES DO YOU THINK YOU WOULD HAVE DIED IF IT WEREN'T FOR ME?!
YOU DON'T WANT TO BE A MURDERER!? NEITHER DO I! IF THERE WAS JUST A WAY—BUT, THERE ISN'T!

IF YOU KEEP MESSING AROUND LIKE THAT, YOUR PROTECTOR WILL REACH THEIR LIMITS!
YOU HAVEN'T SOLVED A SINGLE THING; YET, YOU KEEP TALKING ABOUT IDEALS AND CRITICIZING YOURSELF AND YOUR OPPONENTS!
IT'S REALLY
AGGRA-VATING!

はぁ
はぁ
R...
09
REIJI...
W-WHAT I JUST SAID... I DIDN'T REALLY MEAN IT...
I JUST GOT UPSET... AND WASN'T THINKING...

IT'S OKAY...
YOU'RE NOT WRONG, NEE-SAN...
AT ANY RATE, LET'S GO HOME.
はしゃっ
REIJI...
THIS...
IS... FOR YOUR SAKE...

NO, STOP!

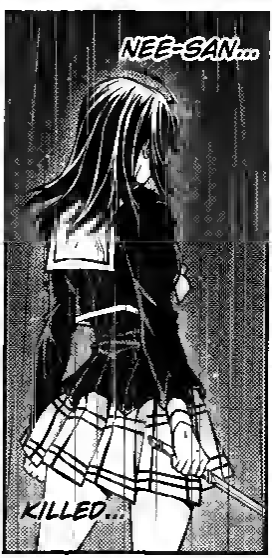
R...
AN...?

NOO
OOO!

15
I'M...
DREAMING... RIGHT NOW... AREN'T... I...?
WHEN I WAKE UP... YUUNA...AND MAKO...
WILL WAKE ME UP... WITH SMILES ON THEIR FACES...
THIS... IS...
ALL A... DREAM, RIGHT...?

YOU KNOW...
IT WAS... THE FIRST TIME...
KEN...?
SOMEONE... STOPPED ME... SAYING THAT SHOPLIFTING WAS A BAD THING...
THAT'S WHAT YOU... TOLD ME...
SO I WORKED... BY MYSELF...
AND TRIED TO LIVE... A GOOD LIFE... WITH MY SISTERS...
SOMEDAY... RAN...
SOMEONE... YOU COULD RELY ON... THAT'S THE KIND... OF... ADULT THAT I...

17



T-THIS IS THE SECOND... TIME...
THAT I HAVE WANTED...
TO KILL SOMEONE...
THIS BADLY...

KUH!
ドッ
ズッ
ふぅ
よろっ

すう
THIS...
よろっ
MONSTER...!

!?
!?
ひく
GRR!
I DON'T HAVE ENOUGH LIFE LEFT.
IF I USE ANY MORE SKILLS, WE WON'T BE ABLE TO LAST..!
21
THE ENEMY IS HALF-DEAD!
I CAN KILL HER IN ONE SHOT!

I DID IT...!

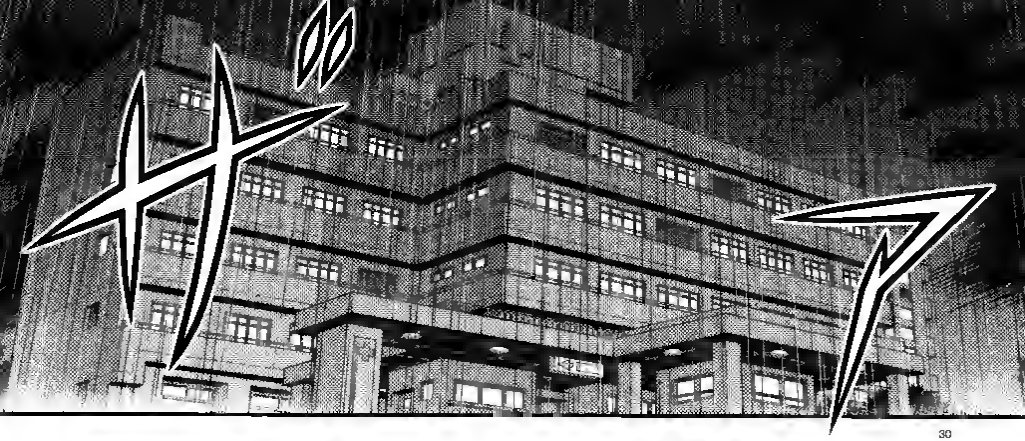
W-WHY?
THAT'S... RIDICU...

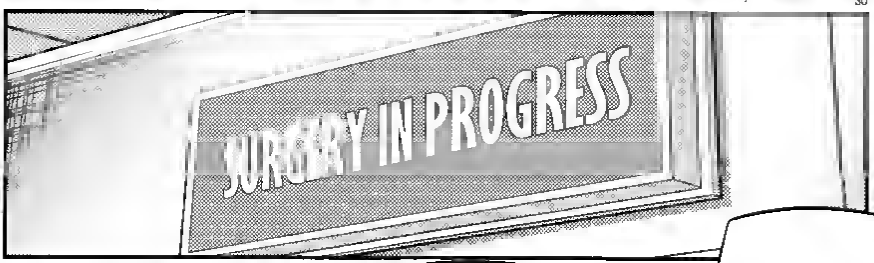
AAAAH!
YOU MONSTER!

DIE!
HURRY UP AND DIE, YOU MONSTER!

しゅう
ドゴッ
27
HAA
HAA
HA
HAA

YOU— YOUR EYE....!?
I'M FINE. GO GET NEE-SAN...
ずるっ
REIJI...!
NEE-SAN'S CONDITION IS MORE SERIOUS... IF WE DON'T HURRY AND GET HELP...
I'LL CARRY HER!!

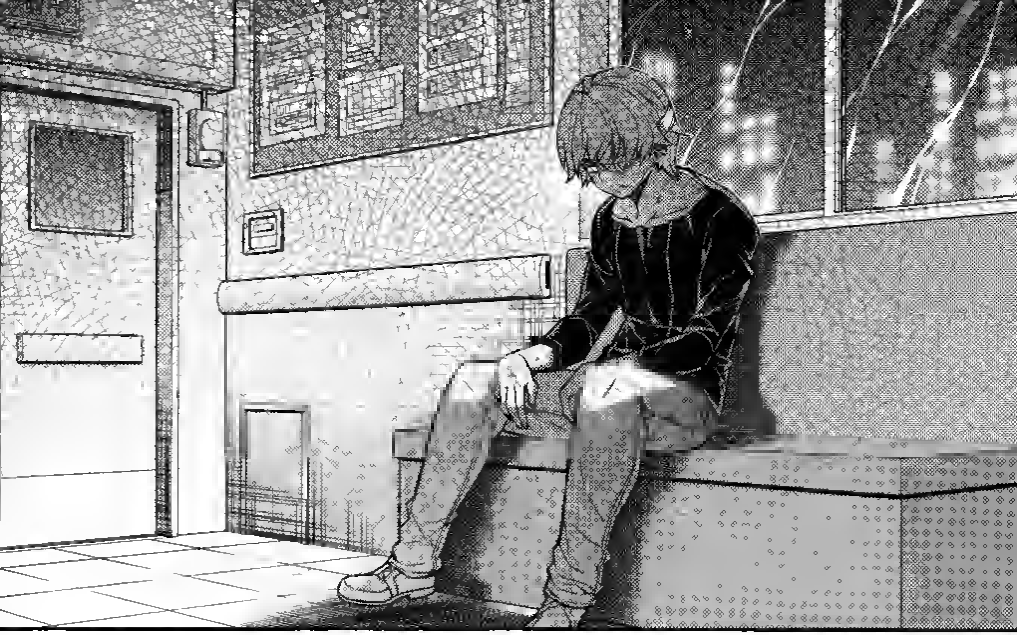



SURGERY IN PROGRESS

ぺこっ

CAN YOU GET A HOLD OF YOUR GUARDIAN OVERSEAS?
I'LL TRY REACHING THEM AFTER WE FIND OUT HOW THE SURGERY WENT.

WE'VE JUST CONTACTED THE POLICE. YOU CAN EXPLAIN THE DETAILS LATER...
OKAY. THE ATTACK WAS SO SUDDEN...



31
You are a Taker, right~
Anyway, your eye's going to be fine, isn't it?
We can tell the police it was a random assailant.
Wyah~ Due to the circumstances, of course the hospital would be suspicious of us...
ピッ

I do feel like the injuries we got today are healing somewhat slower...
うんうん
But I'm sure it'll be fine! We even had them looked at, just in case!
Yup! It'll definitely be fine! Right!
HE DIED... DIDN'T HE...
!
THAT CHILD...
DIED, DIDN'T HE...
NEE-SAN... KILLED HIM...
NO...!
PRO-BABLY...

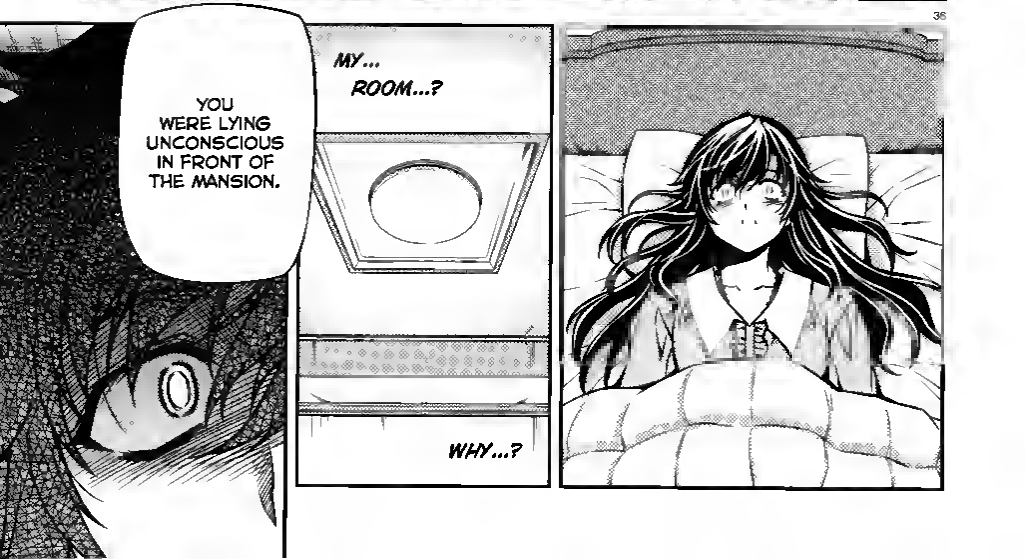
IT WAS AN UNAVOIDABLE ACCIDENT! YOU KNOW THAT, DON'T YOU, REIJI?
AYAKA NEE-SAN WAS DOING IT FOR US...!
THAT'S RIGHT! NEE-SAN...
TRIED TO SHOULDER THE BURDEN BY HERSELF...!
ぶるぶる
NO—!
びくっ

33

BUT NEE-SAN... CHOSE HER PATH...
ぶるぶる
THERE WAS A WAY... TO AVOID KILLING...
YOU... SAW IT, TOO, DIDN'T YOU?
ざわ

SHE CHOSE...
THE PATH OF BLOOD-SHED...
I-I... COULDN'T STOP NEE-SAN... FROM BECOMING A MURDERER...
EVEN THOUGH... EVEN THOUGH... I HAD TO STOP HER...
ガタガタ
I... HAHA... SURVIVED... BY HAVING NEE-SAN KILL SOMEONE...
しんしん
R-REI!!? WHAT'S WRONG!
WE'RE THE SAME...
ぐっ
ぶる
GET A HOLD OF YOURSELF!!
WE'RE BOTH MURDER-ERS....
ぐっ
ぐっ
ぐっ
ぎゅっ
わしっ

IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT... REIJI.../ NO, IT'S NO ONE'S FAULT...
THAT WAS AN ACCIDENT...
YES...
IT WAS A TRAGEDY...


MY... ROOM...?
WHY...?
YOU WERE LYING UNCONSCIOUS IN FRONT OF THE MANSION.

GRANDFATHER...!?
BUT I WAS...!?
NEVER MIND THAT... I WAS IN FRONT OF THE MANSION...?
YOU WERE ASLEEP FOR TWO DAYS. WHAT HAPPENED? WHY WERE YOU LYING ON THE GROUND?
DID YOUR ILLNESS FLARE UP AGAIN?

JUST REST FOR NOW. WE WILL TALK LATER.
P-PRESIDENT ...!
ENOUGH.
MY LADY! YOU MUST CLEAR THIS UP...!! IF IT WASN'T YOUR ILLNESS... THEN WE HAVE TO NOTIFY THE POLICE...!
SLEEP WELL.
ガッ
ガッ
ガチャッ
.....

FETCH HIM.
IF THIS IS A DELIBERATE TARGETING OF THE HEIR TO THE NIKAIDOU CONGLOMERATE...
OF COURSE,
WON'T THIS BE A HUGE PROBLEM...?
AND WHO WOULD THAT BE...?
IT TAKES A THIEF... TO CATCH A THIEF.

Re:BIRTH

きょろ
きょろ
IT'S NOT HERE...!? KENTA'S BODY IS NOWHERE TO BE SEEN...!
THERE'S NO TRACE OF THE POLICE EITHER... WHAT ..!?
はっ
COULD IT BE...!?

KENTA...!
IT'S RAN...
IT... IT'S RAN...
RAN...
RAN! ONII-CHAN ISN'T COMING HOME!
NII-CHAN! WHAT SHOULD WE DO, NII-CHAN?
WE CAN'T FIND NII-CHAN ANY-WHERE...!
WE HAVEN'T EATEN ANY-THING SINCE YESTERDAY...! WAAH!

Re:BIRTH

I HEAR ABOUT YOU FROM TIME TO TIME.
THINGS SEEM TO BE MOVING QUITE SMOOTHLY FOR YOU.
ISHIGAMI.
IT'S ALL THANKS TO YOUR GUIDANCE.
43
CLEARLY, THE ONE WHO STANDS AT THE TOP OF THE TAKERS... ALSO STANDS ON TOP IN THE HUMAN SOCIETY...
I DON'T DESERVE SUCH PRAISE.
JUST LIKE EVERYONE ELSE, I'M A WEAK PERSON...
WHO CAN'T EVEN TAKE ONE STEP WITHOUT YOUR SUPPORT, PRESIDENT.
HEHE... A WEAK PERSON, EH?

FOR A PERSON WHO COULD GET RID OF ME WITHOUT A TRACE... IF HE EVER FELT LIKE IT...
YOU SURE SAY SOME HUMBLE THINGS.
PLEASE DON'T SAY THINGS LIKE THAT, EVEN IF YOU'RE JUST JOKING...
I ADMIRE YOU FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART...
YOU GAVE ME A WAY TO LIVE AS A HUMAN... A PLACE OF BUSINESS...
SUCH AS THE FACT THAT, UNTIL YOU GET WHAT YOU WANT FROM ME...
YOU CAN'T KILL ME... DON'T YOU THINK SO, ISHIGAMI?
TAKER SOCIETY ISN'T VERY DIFFERENT FROM BASIC HUMAN SOCIETY, EXCEPT THAT ANYONE CAN BE KILLED AT ANYTIME, IF DESIRED...
IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE... WHEN IT COMES TO WHOM YOU WANT TO KILL THE MOST.
YOU'RE JOKING, AGAIN...

NIKAIDOU RAN WAS ATTACKED TWO DAYS AGO.
PUTTING THAT ASIDE, YOU KNOW, DON'T YOU?
45
THE PROBLEM IS... THERE HAS BEEN SOME TROUBLE WITH THIS.
BESIDES, "IT" STANDS AT THE PINNACLE OF THE TAKERS...
YES, HOW ABSURD.
THEY WEREN'T EVEN AWARE THE LADY WAS THE NIKAIDOU HEIR...
IT CAN'T BE HELPED. NOT EVEN RAN...
YOU CAN FIND THEM, YES? YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO GET INFORMATION ON TAKERS IN THIS AREA.
THERE ARE MANY WHO SEE IT AS A NUISANCE.
KNOWS THAT I'M INVOLVED WITH TAKERS.

YOU WILL FIND
YES...
JUST GIVE ME SOME TIME... I'LL DEFINITELY...
...!
AND ELIMINATE
THOSE FOOLISH ANIMALS THAT BARED THEIR FANGS AGAINST ONE WHO HAS THE BLOOD OF PRINCE NIKAIDOU...

UNDER-
STOOD...
I'LL BE
SURE TO
DO SO...
TO BE CONTINUED
MAY'S ISSUE WILL BE ON SALE MARCH 27!!

Muda Scantrad
無駄スキャンレーション

TRANSLATOR: DOWOLF
RAW: ABCD9146
EDITORS: ROBLOX, PACMAN2, SUNINJIN, QASZ
TYPESETTER: YOTEN, ABCD9146
QUALITY CHECK: ABCD9146, QASZ

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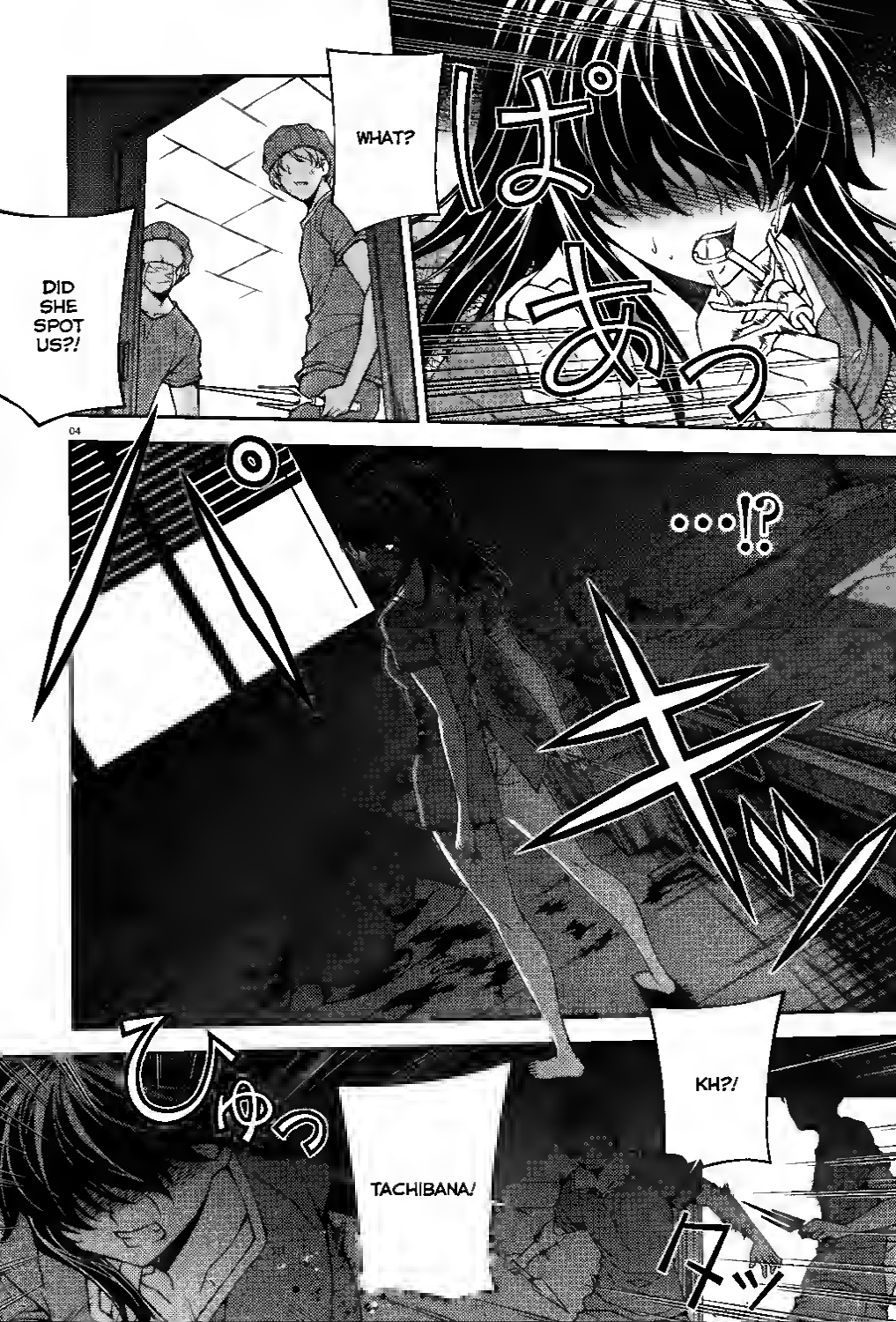
Re:BIRTH
The Lunatic Taker
CHAPTER 23: CRACKS
STORY: LIM DALL-YOUNG
ART: LEE SOO-HYON

ガチャッ
ぶっ
02
…!?
びくっ
かしっ

YOU...
CAN MOVE
ALREADY?!
TCH!
ぶう
ぶう
HAH...
KH...
UHHH...


WHAT?
DID SHE SPOT US?!
はっ
まっ
04
…!?
KH?!
TACHIBANA!
ひゅっ
ガッ

I NEED TO BRING A CHANGE OF CLOTHES... AND SOME UNDERWEAR...
WHAT ELSE...?
ちらり

WELL, I'LL HEAD BACK TO THE HOSPITAL.
I'VE PREPARED SOME FOOD, SO EAT IT WHEN YOU GET HUNGRY.
.....
I really am a good cook. You knew that, right?
I'll be expecting your compliments when I get back!
...YOU SHOULD PROBABLY SHOW YOUR FACE AT THE HOSPITAL, ONCE YOU'RE FEELING BETTER
C'MON, NO GOING BACK!
ガラッ
ひゅおおお
!?
ナバッ

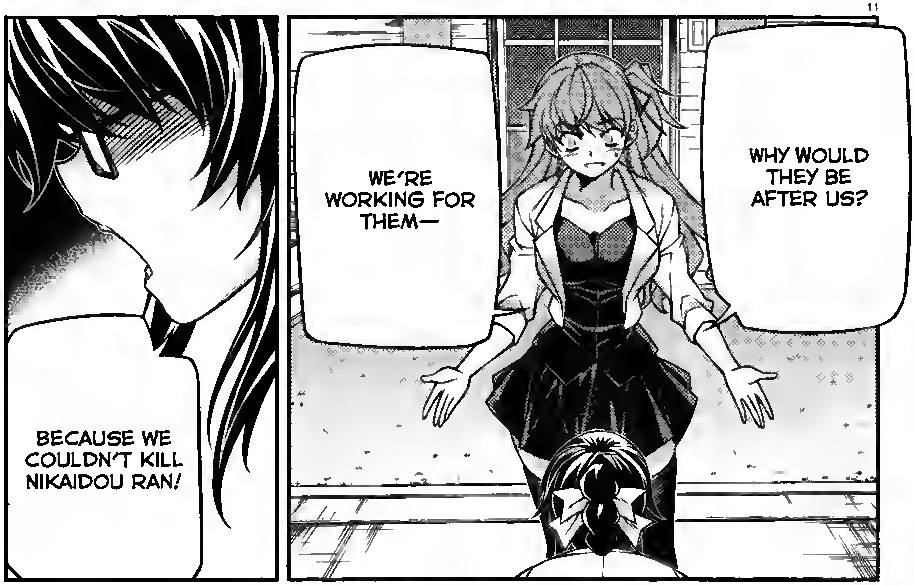
ぽた
ぽた
ぽた
07
A...
AYAKA-NEE-SAN?!

WHAT HAPPENED? WHY'D YOU LEAVE THE HOSPITAL? YOU SHOULDN'T BE UP AND ABOUT!
FORGET ABOUT THAT— WE NEED TO GET OUT OF HERE, NOW!
WE NEED TO LEAVE...? BUT WHERE WOULD WE GO?
I'LL EXPLAIN LATER!
SOMEWHERE FAR FROM HERE!
REIJI! YOU NEED TO GET MOVING, TOO! NOW!

WOW... I DIDN'T KNOW YOU HAD A RESORT HOME... I'M KINDA SHOCKED...
OUR MOTHER BOUGHT IT... WE USED TO COME HERE EVERY YEAR DURING SUMMER BREAK.
09
よろっ
EH? YOU'RE BLEEDING!
WE SHOULD GET YOU BACK TO THE HOSPITAL...!
N-NEE-SAN? YOU ALL RIGHT?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME... I SHOULD RECOVER AFTER A NIGHT'S REST...
BUT THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG HERE... SHOULDN'T YOU HAVE FINISHED HEALING BY NOW?
IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN BECAUSE OF THAT NIKAIDOU BITCH'S SORCERY DEVICE, OR MAYBE SOME SKILL OF HERS...
REIJI'S EYE HASN'T HEALED YET, EITHER.

AND WHY DO WE HAVE TO HIDE HERE?
HOLD IT... WHAT'S GOING ON? WHY WON'T YOU GO BACK TO THE HOSPITAL?
I'LL BE FINE. BUT WE SHOULD HIDE HERE UNTIL I'VE FULLY RECOVERED.
YOU GUYS SHOULDN'T HEAD OUT CARELESSLY, EITHER.
IF THEY FIND US,
THEY'LL KILL US.

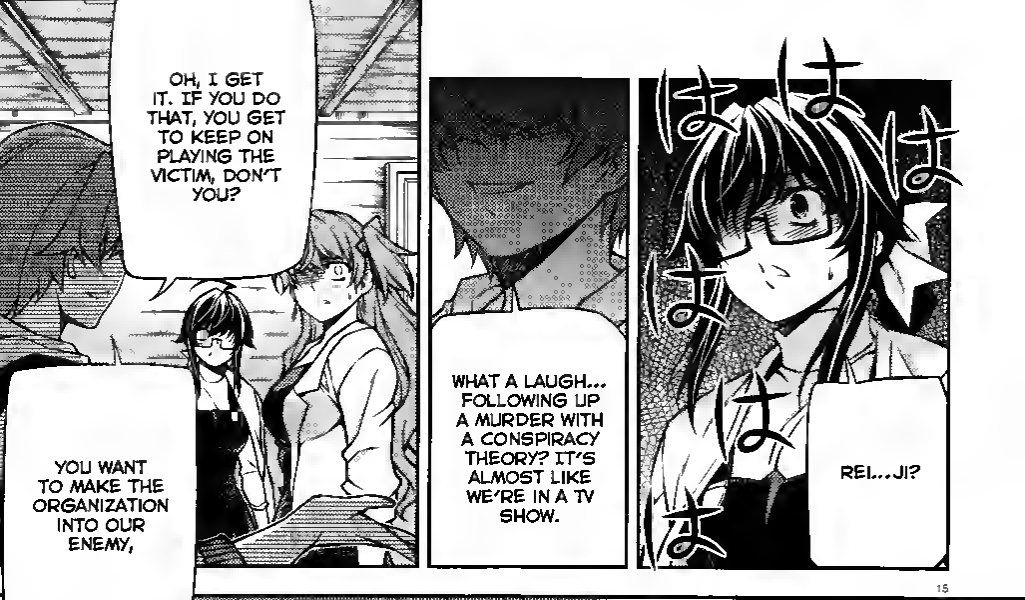
LIFE INC...
A GANG SENT BY ITS PRESIDENT, ISHIGAMI RYUUSUKE.
!?
TH-THEY?!
WHO'S "THEY"? NIKAIDOU?
WHAT- WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?


BECAUSE WE COULDN'T KILL NIKAIDOU RAN!
WE'RE WORKING FOR THEM—
WHY WOULD THEY BE AFTER US?

!?
NO, THERE MIGHT BE SOME OTHER REASON.
BUT THE CRUX OF THE MATTER IS THAT THEY NO LONGER HAVE ANY USE FOR US.
THAT THEY JUST TRIED TO KILL ME AT THE HOSPITAL PROVES IT.
I CAN'T BE 100% CERTAIN. BUT I WAS ATTACKED BY MULTIPLE TAKERS...
ARE YOU CERTAIN? WHY WOULD THE GUILD EVEN DO THIS? ...ARE YOU SAYING THEY'RE GOING TO KILL US BECAUSE WE FAILED THE TEST...?!
BUT-BUT THAT'S...
AND WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT IT, DOESN'T SOMETHING STRIKE YOU AS A LITTLE OFF?
.....
WHY? WE NEVER WANTED TO OPPOSE THE GUILD...!
ぼっ
.....!!
THERE'S NO WAY A GROUP OF TAKERS THAT LARGE COULDN'T DEFEAT NIKAIDOU.
TO-TO PROTECT THE GROUP...
SO WHY ENLIST A COUPLE OF BEGINNERS LIKE OURSELVES?
FROM TAKING THE BLAME, MAYBE?

IT WAS SO THEY COULD BACK OUT WHENEVER THEY WANTED.
AND LAY ALL THE BLAME FOR KILLING NIKAIDOU AT OUR FEET.
YOU-YOU MEAN BECAUSE WE SCREWED UP? YOU THINK THEY FEAR PAYBACK FROM NIKAIDOU?
WEREN'T YOU LISTENING? I JUST TOLD YOU THAT AN INDIVIDUAL COULD NEVER DEFEAT SUCH AN ORGANIZATION, NO MATTER HOW POWERFUL SHE IS.
NIKAIDOU WAS CERTAINLY A MONSTER. NEVERTHELESS, IF ISHIGAMI AND HIS CREW WENT ALL OUT, I DOUBT SHE'D LAST LONG AGAINST THEM. SO WHY DO YOU THINK HE LEFT THINGS TO US?
...IT'S BECAUSE ISHIGAMI NEEDED NIKAIDOU RAN TO DISAPPEAR WITHOUT DIRTYING HIS OWN HANDS...
I SUSPECT IT DIDN'T MATTER TO HIM WHETHER OR NOT WE KILLED NIKAIDOU... HE MUST HAVE HAD SOME OTHER GOAL. BUT HE NEEDED A SCAPEGOAT... AND THAT'S WHERE WE COME IN...
EVEN IF WE HAD SUCCEEDED, HE WOULD HAVE GOTTEN RID OF US IN THE END.

LIKE A LIZARD CUTTING OFF ITS OWN TAIL TO SURVIVE...
HE REALLY USED US GOOD.
KHKH...!
...!!
ADD IN WHAT HAPPENED AT THE HOSPITAL, AND IT ALL STARTS TO MAKE SENSE.
HOW COULD I HAVE BEEN SO FOOLISH? I'M SO SORRY!
14
KHKHKH!
AHA HAHA AHA!
KHKH... KHKH KHKH!


OH, I GET IT. IF YOU DO THAT, YOU GET TO KEEP ON PLAYING THE VICTIM, DON'T YOU?
YOU WANT TO MAKE THE ORGANIZATION INTO OUR ENEMY,
WHAT A LAUGH... FOLLOWING UP A MURDER WITH A CONSPIRACY THEORY? IT'S ALMOST LIKE WE'RE IN A TV SHOW.
はは
はは
REI...JI?

AND FIGHT THEM OFF, RIGHT?
YOU THINK THAT'LL MAKE UP FOR THE GUILT YOU FEEL OVER KILLING SOMEONE?!

REIJI! WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE SAYING?!
FROM THE START, IT WAS NEE-SAN WHO BETRAYED US AND RAN OFF TO NEGOTIATE WITH THEM!
AND THAT CHOICE LED TO THE DEATH OF AN INNOCENT CHILD!
DO YOU DISAGREE?
AND NOW SHE CLAIMS TO BE THE VICTIM, THAT SHE WAS USED BY THE ORGANIZATION?
WORDS CANNOT DESCRIBE HOW SELFISH YOU'VE BECOME!
NO, I THINK I'VE FINALLY FIGURED IT OUT.
YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN THAT WAY, HAVEN'T YOU?
A PATHETIC EGOIST WHO ACTS ONLY FOR HER OWN CONVENIENCE.

REI...
JI?
DON'T YOU THINK YOU'VE GONE TOO FAR?! WHY ARE YOU SO EAGER TO DOUBT EVERYTHING YOUR SISTER HAS TO SAY? IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT, WHAT SHE SAYS REALLY DOES MAKE SENSE!
YOU CAN ACCEPT HER KILLING AN INNOCENT BOY BECAUSE YOU UNDERSTAND HER TAKING A REQUEST TO KILL SOMEONE ELSE?!
びくっ
SO EVERYTHING'S FINE AS LONG AS IT "MAKES SENSE"?
THAT— THAT WAS AN ACCIDENT; NO ONE COULD HAVE DONE ANYTHING...

THAT WOMAN KILLED SOMEONE.

SHE DECIDED WE WERE MORE IMPORTANT THAN A CHILD
AND KILLED HIM SO WE COULD LIVE!
SHE SELFISHLY WENT ON A RAMPAGE, AND IS GUILTY OF MURDER...
AND NOW, SHE STARTS SPOUTING ON ABOUT A CONSPIRACY? DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH.
I'M LEAVING.
I DON'T THINK I...
ぶるる
CAN TRUST YOU ANYMORE, NEE-SAN.
YOU CAN'T!

I DON'T WANT TO ARGUE WITH YOU. MOVE!
I WON'T MOVE!
YOU CAN'T GO!
OUT OF MY WAY!
I WON'T LET YOU LEAVE...
EVEN IF I HAVE TO STAB YOU!!

IS THIS WHO YOU REALLY ARE,
NEE-SAN?
…!
ズブッ
ゆっ
くっ

すっ
すうう
I USED TO RESPECT YOU, NEE-SAN.

NOT ANYMORE.
BUT I CAN'T.

ガチャッ
24
I DID... EVERYTHING... FOR REIJI'S SAKE...
FOR... HIS SAKE...
NE- NEE-SAN...
FOR YOUR... SAKE...
PLEASE DON'T WORRY, AYAKA-NEE-SAN...
I'M SURE HE'LL BE BACK SOON...

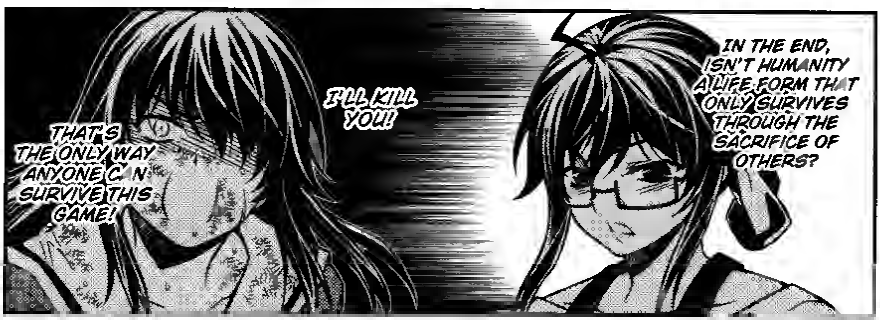
THIS IS OUR ONE AND ONLY CHANCE,
REIJI...
UAH HHH HHH HHH
HHH HHHH H!!!!

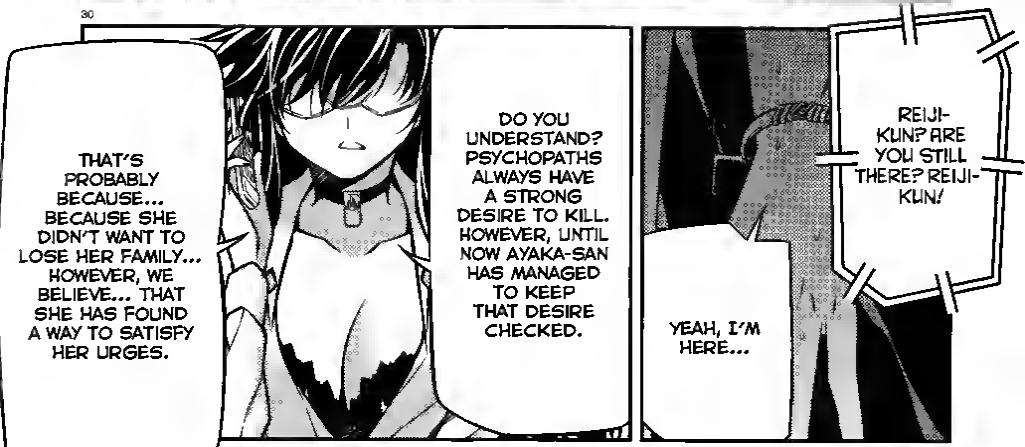
IGARASHI...
SAN...?
ガチャッ
IGARASHI KYOUKA
トゥルルルル
27
トゥルルル
REIJI-KUN?!
ARE YOU ALRIGHT? WHERE ARE YOU?
WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF I TOLD YOU? FINISH CLEANING UP LOOSE ENDS?
!
HELLO?

I'M TRYING TO HELP YOU!
PLEASE, LET ME TELL YOU SOME-THING!
IF SHE IS... YOU NEED TO GET AWAY FROM HER, RIGHT NOW!
I'M JUST ASKING YOU TO LISTEN! IS AYAKA-SAN WITH YOU RIGHT NOW?
DON'T—DON'T HANG UP!
JUST DO WHATEVER YOU WANT... TRACK MY LOCATION, EVEN... AND KILL ME.
SHE'S NOT THINKING STRAIGHT ANYMORE!
...!?
SHE'S...
NOT THINKING STRAIGHT?
MY SISTER IS...

SHE STABBED A NURSE AT THE HOSPITAL BEFORE RUNNING OFF!
IT SEEMS SHE'S EMBRACED HER TRUE NATURE AS A PSYCHOPATH
IT LOOKS LIKE SHE'S CONVINCED HERSELF SOMEONE'S AFTER HER!
SHE'S STARTING TO DEVELOP A CASE OF MEGALOMANIA...
AND IS STARTING TO GO ON A RAMPAGE!
HER TRUE NATURE...
AS A PSYCHO-PATH?
MY BOSS DIDN'T WANT TO TELL YOU, BUT...
YOU KNOW THAT AYAKA-SAN'S CLASS IS PSYCHOPATH, RIGHT?
THAT'S SUPPOSED TO BE A CLASS UNOBTAINABLE UNLESS YOU GET LOTS OF EXPERIENCE HUNTING AND KILLING OTHER TAKERS.
HOWEVER, YOUR SISTER WAS A PSYCHOPATH FROM THE START... WHAT DO YOU THINK THAT MEANS?

AND A NATURAL-BORN PSYCHOPATH CAN NO MORE CONTROL HER URGE TO KILL THAN SHE CAN HER HUNGER OR SEX DRIVE.
IT MEANS THAT AYAKA-SAN IS A NATURAL-BORN PSYCHOPATH.
URGE TO KILL...?
A NATURAL-BORN... PSYCHOPATH?


THAT'S THE ONLY WAY ANYONE CAN SURVIVE THIS GAME!
I'LL KILL YOU!
IN THE END, ISN'T HUMANITY A LIFE FORM THAT ONLY SURVIVES THROUGH THE SACRIFICE OF OTHERS?

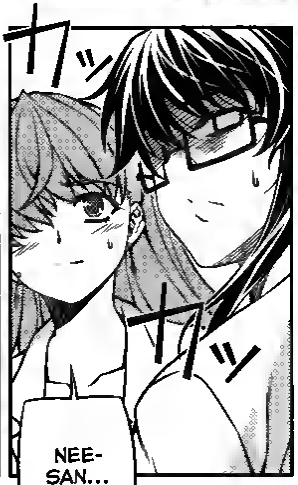

THAT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE... BECAUSE SHE DIDN'T WANT TO LOSE HER FAMILY... HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE... THAT SHE HAS FOUND A WAY TO SATISFY HER URGES.
DO YOU UNDERSTAND? PSYCHOPATHS ALWAYS HAVE A STRONG DESIRE TO KILL. HOWEVER, UNTIL NOW AYAKA-SAN HAS MANAGED TO KEEP THAT DESIRE CHECKED.
REIJI-KUN? ARE YOU STILL THERE? REIJI-KUN!
YEAH, I'M HERE...

THIS IS ALL FOR YOUR SAKE,
REIJI.
THAT BRINGS US TO YOU, REIJI-KUN.
YOU HAVE TO BELIEVE ME! WHERE ARE YOU RIGHT NOW?
WE NEED TO STOP AYAKA-SAN BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!
SHE PLANS TO USE PROTECTING YOU AS A PRETEXT TO SATISFY HER URGE TO KILL, HER OWN PERSONAL DESIRES!

…!
REI…!
REIJI…?!
REI… REIJI…
SEE? I TOLD YOU HE'D COME BACK!
Hey— welcome home! Oh… We were so worried about you!

ひくっ
NEE-SAN, CAN YOU DO SOMETHING FOR ME?

CAN YOU...
STAY AWAY FROM ME FOR A WHILE?
ぽた
ぽた


カッ
カッ
NEE-SAN...

カッ
I'LL BE RESTING ON THE SECOND FLOOR... I WANT TO BE ALONE FOR A LITTLE WHILE.

I'LL BRING IT UP TO HIM; YOU SHOULD TAKE A BREAK, TOO, NEE-SAN.
IT'S REIJI'S FAVORITE.
Uwah! It smells so good!
NO, I'LL BRING IT UP MYSELF.
OK, THAT'S FINE...
I TOLD YOU I WANTED TO BE ALONE...
I'VE BROUGHT DINNER...
REIJI...
IT'S YOUR FAVORITE: CRÈME STEW!
THEN I'LL JUST LEAVE IT HERE FOR YOU...

I'M TELLING YOU, I'M NOT HUNGRY!!
KYAH!!
I'M...
I'M SO SORRY... WAS IT TOO HOT?
カラッ
カシャッ
I'LL GO GET SOME THINGS TO CLEAN THIS UP...
ヒっ
……!!

JUST SHUT UP AND GET OUT!
I DON'T NEED YOU TO CARE FOR ME!
パチ
パチ

スッ
パチ
パチ
HERE. HAVE SOME HOT CHOCOLATE.
!

THANK YOU...
YOUR SISTER'S ASLEEP. SHE SEEMS TO BE HANDLING IT PRETTY WELL...
YOUR SISTER'S BEEN WORKING REALLY HARD...
YOU KNOW WHY THAT IS, RIGHT? AND I DON'T THINK...
I CAN'T BLAME YOU FOR PANICKING, AFTER ALL THAT'S HAPPENED...
BUT PLEASE DON'T TAKE IT OUT ON AYAKA-NEE-SAN.
DO YOU KNOW HOW HARD SHE WORKED MAKING THAT STEW FOR YOU?
THAT YOU HATE HER...
RIGHT?
MY SISTER...
ISN'T JUST A SISTER TO ME...
パチッ
パチ

I DON'T THINK I COULD EVER EXPRESS HOW MUCH I RESENTED HER FOR THAT...
OUR MOTHER WAS ALWAYS OVERSEAS... SHE MIGHT AS WELL HAVE JUST LEFT US TO FEND FOR OURSELVES.
EVEN THOUGH SHE WAS SO GOOD AT GYMNASTICS, SHE QUIT SO THAT SHE COULD TAKE CARE OF ME.
SO MY SISTER PRACTICALLY RAISED ME... SHE DEVOTED HERSELF TO ME...
SHE WAS THE ONLY ONE... WHO REALLY FELT LIKE FAMILY.
WHILE MY MOTHER WAS ALWAYS SO FAR AWAY THAT I COULD BARELY EVEN REMEMBER WHAT SHE LOOKED LIKE, MY SISTER WAS ALWAYS RIGHT BY MY SIDE.

SO HOW COULD SHE...
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO ACCEPT THAT SHE COULD HAVE DONE SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
ISN'T IT TIME...
THAT YOU GREW UP FROM BEING YOUR SISTER'S CHILD?
YOU'VE GOTTEN TOO USED TO RELYING ON YOUR SISTER, REIJI.
YOUR SISTER'S HER OWN PERSON... IT'S SELFISH OF YOU TO WANT HER TO STAY BY YOUR SIDE, PRECIOUS AND BEAUTIFUL, FOREVER AND EVER...

TACHIBANA AYAKA HAS DESIRES, GETS ANGRY, DOES THINGS WE WISH SHE WOULDN'T... JUST LIKE ANYONE ELSE. YOU NEED TO... ACCEPT YOUR SISTER MORE FOR WHO SHE IS...
JUST LIKE...
ANYONE ELSE...
YOUR SISTER...
IS A NATURAL-BORN PSYCHOPATH!
BUT... WHAT IF NEE-SAN S...
ドドッ
WHAT IS WITH THIS MYSTICAL VERSION OF YOUR SISTER?!
OH, FOR GOODNESS SAKE! ALL YOU DO IS WHINE ON AND ON ABOUT YOUR SISTER!
YOU ENCOUNTER ONE ASPECT OF HER YOU DIDN'T EXPECT, AND SUDDENLY SHE'S DEAD TO YOU?!

THAT'S THE TACHIBANA REIJI I KNOW!
わしっ
STOP RELYING ON HER FOR EVERYTHING, AND FIND YOUR OWN ANSWERS!
NOW'S THE TIME TO BE A MAN! YOU SHOULD ACT COOL AND ACCEPT EVERYTHING ABOUT HER, EVEN THE THINGS YOU DON'T LIKE!
AND WHEN THINGS GET REALLY, REALLY TOUGH, AND IT SEEMS LIKE IT CAN'T GET ANY WORSE...
AND MAYBE YOU'LL HELP OUT YOUR SISTER WITH HER PROBLEMS FROM TIME TO TIME?
We're childhood friends, aren't we?
Then maybe I can join you, and we can bear the weight together.

HUH?
!
おう
UMM... WHAT?!

ドキ
ドキ
WAIT— WHAT ARE YOU...?
ドクン
43
ドクン

WHAT COMES AFTER... AN INSTINCTIVE RAMPAGE?
次号につづく!
6月号 4月27日(水)発売!!

Muda Scantrad
無駄スキャンレーション

TRANSLATOR: DOWOLF
RAW: ABCD9146
EDITORS: PACMAN2, ABCD9146, QASZ
TYPESETTER: YOTHEN
QUALITY CHECK: ABCD9146, QASZ

PLEASE, FORGIVE ME!
FORGIVE ME!
I'LL DO WHATEVER YOU ASK, AND BE A GOOD LITTLE GIRL!
I WON'T DO IT ANY MORE, I PROMISE!
ドン
ドン
ドン
ドン
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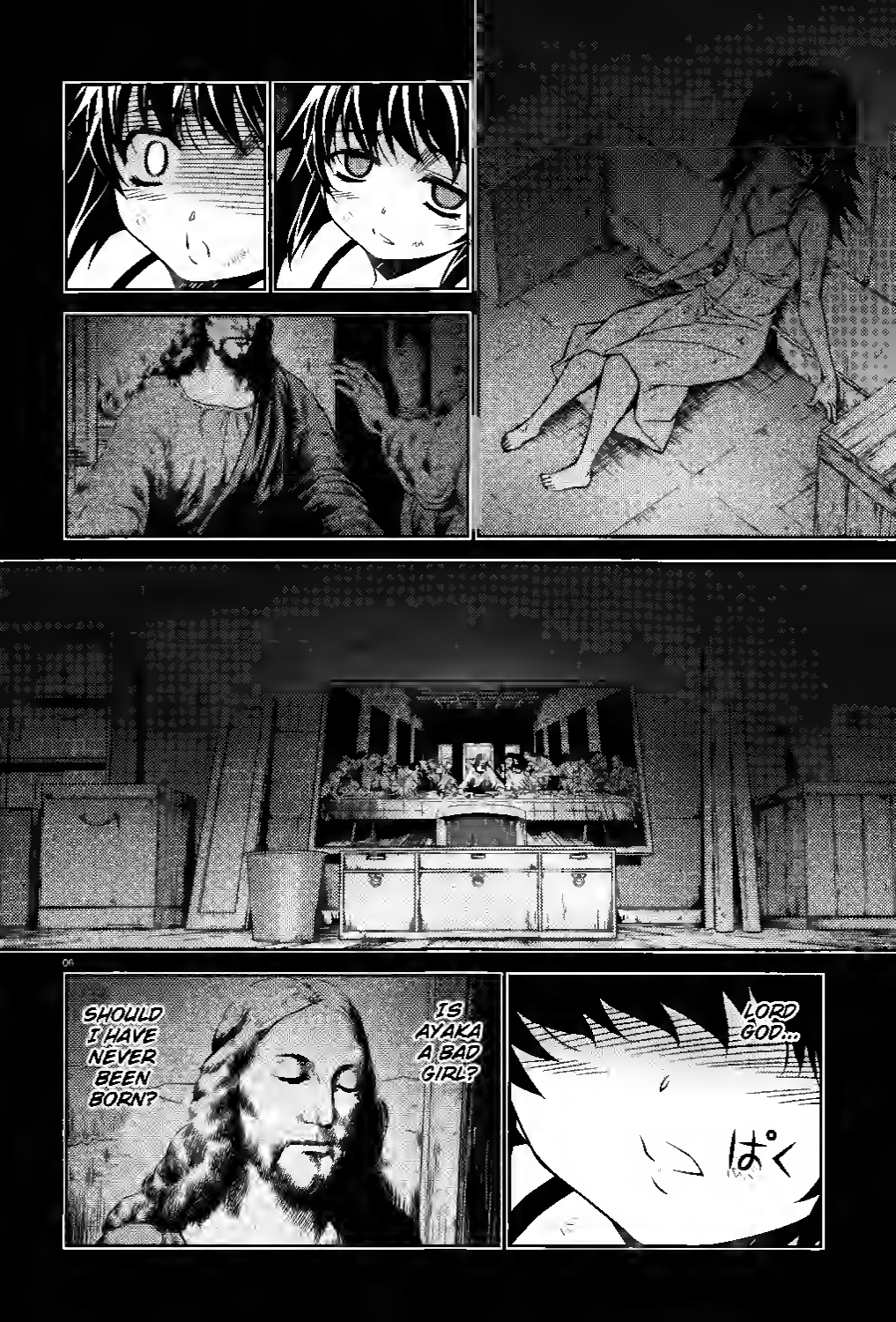
ドン
ドン
01

Re:BIRTH
The Lunatic Taker
CHAPTER 24: A CHOICE
STORY: LIM DALL-YOUNG
ART: LEE SOO-HYON

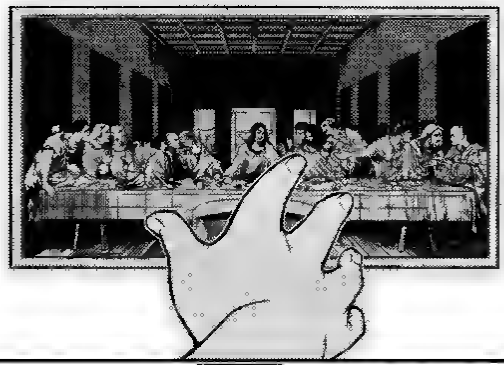
SHOULD I FORGIVE YOU FOR?
WHAT...
03
I TOLD YOU NOT TO CALL ME "MOTHER"!
ひっく
IT'S-IT'S MY FAULT...
I UPSET YOU, MOTHER...
I'M SORRY, HARUKA-SAN!
IT'S JUST, I'M REALLY HUNGRY AND IT HURTS, SO...
BUT I DEFINITELY WON'T DO IT AGAIN!
I WON'T CALL YOU THAT AGAIN! I WON'T!

YOU...
YOUR SIN IS BEING MY DAUGHTER.
I REALLY DON'T CARE ABOUT THAT.
YOU'VE COMMITTED OTHER SINS.
AND MY BRINGING YOU INTO THIS WORLD, IS AN INDELIBLE SIN.
YOUR MERE EXISTENCE,
04
WAS AN UNFORGIVABLE CRIME.
YOUR BIRTH ITSELF
IF YOU DISAPPEARED FROM MY SIGHT...
AT THIS RATE, MAYBE IT'D JUST BE BETTER

ドーン
ガシャ
ISN'T THAT THE MOTHER OF THAT HOUSEHOLD?
!
ひえっ
EVERY NIGHT, I CAN HEAR A GIRL SCREAMING... AND THE LAST TIME I SAW HER, HER BODY WAS COVERED IN BRUISES... DO YOU THINK THERE'S CHILD ABUSE?
ひえ
MAYBE WE SHOULD CALL THE POLICE.
ひえ


06
SHOULD I HAVE NEVER BEEN BORN?
IS AYAKA A BAD GIRL?
LORD GOD...
ぽく

WOULD IT MAKE HARUKA-SAN HAPPY?
IF I WENT TO JOIN YOU NOW, LORD, WOULD IT MAKE MOTHER...


HARUKA-SAN IS...

MOTH...
HARUKA... SAN.

HERE...
EAT UP...

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ばく

IS IT GOOD?
YES! IT'S DELICIOUS!

WHEN YOU'RE DONE EATING,

WHY DON'T WE GO TAKE A BATH TOGETHER?

AYAKA, DO YOU WANT TO BE A GOOD GIRL?
YOU KNOW YOUR MOTHER CAN'T STAND A LIAR.
I— I'M NOT LYING!
HONEST!
Yes, Haruka-san! I want to be a good girl!
THEN FOLLOW ME.

10
Mama!
REIJI, COULD YOU LOOK OVER THERE FOR ME?
THERE, THERE! YOU REALLY ARE A GOOD BOY, AREN'T YOU, REIJI?
Mama! Mama!
よろ
よろ
Yes, come to Mommy, Reiji...

AYAKA.
THAT'S YOUR BIG SISTER,
ぽっ
じぃ
にこっ
Onee-chan!

HIS NAME IS REIJI...
HE'LL BE YOUR LITTLE BROTHER FROM NOW ON.
MY BROTHER...
AYAKA, CAN YOU KEEP HIM CLOSE TO YOU FOREVER?
Y-YES!
WILL YOU PROTECT HIM, NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, EVEN IF YOU HAVE TO SACRIFICE YOURSELF?
I'LL TREASURE REIJI FOREVER! I'LL PROTECT HIM FOREVER!
HE'LL MEAN MUCH, MUCH MORE TO ME THAN MYSELF!
NEVER FORGET THOSE WORDS. NEVER FORGET HOW IT FEELS TO SACRIFICE YOURSELF FOR OTHERS.
THAT IS THE VALUE OF HUMANITY... IF YOU LOSE THAT, YOU'LL NO LONGER BE HUMAN.

IF YOU EVER THRUST REIJI INTO DESPAIR FOR YOUR OWN PERSONAL GAIN, OR IF HE GROWS TO HATE YOU,
THEN I WILL GIVE UP ON YOU. COMPLETELY AND FOR-EVER.
THEREFORE, YOU MUST ALWAYS LOVE REIJI AS A MEMBER OF YOUR FAMILY.
SO THAT HE GROWS TO LOVE YOU IN RETURN.
IF... IF YOU CAN'T DO THAT, THEN YOU'LL...

THERE'S NO WAY HE COULD HATE ME... BUT IF HE DOES, WHAT SHOULD I DO FOR HIM?
YOU'RE WRONG... HARUKA-SAN... I'VE WORKED SO HARD FOR REIJI ALL THIS TIME...

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ピタッ
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...
REIJI? IS THAT YOU?
ひっ

UH...
UHN...
...!
NATSU...HI?
...

NEE-SAN...?
NE...

AFTER ALL, I'M...
SOMEONE WHO EXISTS FOR YOU AND YOU ALONE.
WHAT-WHAT ARE YOU...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING...?
19
I'M SORRY... YOUR SISTER SHOULD'VE THOUGHT THINGS OVER A BIT MORE...
AFTER ALL, YOU'RE NOT A CHILD ANYMORE, REIJI.
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT TOOK ME SO LONG TO REALIZE THAT... I'M SUCH AN IDIOT.
BUT I KNOW HOW TO MAKE YOU HAPPY.

UWAHHHH!

WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU, NEE-SAN?!
はぁ
はぁ
I AM SANE.
PLEASE, START ACTING SANE AGAIN!

YOU'RE A MAN, REIJI. IT MUST BE HARD FOR YOU TO HOLD BACK SO MUCH, RIGHT?
AFTER ALL, TAKERS CAN'T GO BACK TO A NORMAL LIFE, NOR CAN THEY DATE NORMALLY.

ISN'T THAT JUST PERFECT...?
BUT I AM YOUR SISTER... AND A WOMAN... AND A TAKER...
21
I WAS RIGHT... IT WAS TOO EARLY FOR YOU TO LEAVE THE HOSPITAL.
NA- NATSUHI...!
HOWEVER... IT'S YOUR HEAD THAT'S REALLY MESSED UP.

YOU HAVE TO TELL HER SHE'S YOUR SISTER.
IF YOU DON'T, SHE'S JUST GOING TO KEEP ON DELUDING HERSELF.
REIJI, YOU HAVE TO TELL IT TO HER STRAIGHT, HERE AND NOW.
...
NOTHING MORE, AND NOTHING LESS.
CAN'T MAKE THE RIGHT DECISIONS ANYMORE...
I GET IT... YOU'RE THE CAUSE OF ALL THIS. IT'S YOUR FAULT THAT REIJI...
RIGHT NOW, THE ONE YOU'RE HURTING MOST OF ALL,
HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT? ARE YOU INSANE?!
IS REIJI! WHY CAN'T YOU FIGURE THAT OUT?
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO CAN'T MAKE THE RIGHT DECISIONS!

YOU'RE A TAKER. THE SECOND YOU START RUNNING OUT OF LIFE POINTS,
YOU'RE GOING TO SLIT REIJI'S THROAT WHILE HE SLEEPS.
23
SO WHAT RIGHT DO YOU HAVE TO HARASS ME,
YOU WHORE?!
STOP IT!

ドカーン
24
…!!

DO YOU THINK...
DO YOU THINK YOU,
OF ALL PEOPLE,

CAN TAKE MY ONE-AND-ONLY REIJI FROM ME?!
IS YOUR LOVE FOR HIM STILL THAT FUCKED UP?!

ENOUGH!
27
ENOUGH...
ENOUGH ALREADY...
ふるふる

IF YOU DON'T STOP, I'LL...
I'LL TAKE MY OWN LIFE.
ぴゅっ
28
REIJI!
はぁ!!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

WHAT ABOUT YOU, NEE-SAN? WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS TO ME?
WHAT WOULD CAUSE YOU DO THIS? WHY?
WHY WOULD YOU DO THIS?!
THE NEE-SAN I KNEW WAS NICER THAN ANYONE ELSE...
SHE WAS A BIT CLUMSY, BUT YOU COULD ALWAYS COUNT ON HER IN A PINCH...
AND SHE ALWAYS MADE SURE
I HAD A PLACE TO CALL HOME.
SHE TOOK THE PLACE OF OUR HARSH MOTHER,
AND GAVE ME A PLACE OF TRANQUILITY.

HOW CAN THAT SISTER HAVE BECOME SO SCARY?
I WAS AFRAID...
SO AFRAID...
AFRAID THAT YOU WOULD LEAVE ME, REIJI... THAT YOU WOULD DISAPPEAR FROM MY SIDE...
I HAD TO FIGHT TO SAVE YOU!
BUT AS THE FIGHTING CONTINUED, YOU GREW TO HATE ME! I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO! OF COURSE I WAS INSECURE!

I WOULD HAVE DONE ANYTHING TO PROTECT YOU!
SO IN A SITUATION LIKE THIS, WHAT CHOICE DID I HAVE?
COULD I HAVE LEFT YOU BEHIND AND LIVED BY MYSELF? OF COURSE I COULD! BUT HOW COULD I HAVE LIVED WITH MYSELF?!
WHY?!
WHY CAN'T YOU UNDERSTAND?
31
IS A NATURAL-BORN PSYCHOPATH.
YOUR SISTER, AYAKA-SAN,
THAT IS WHY WE POSSESS A KILLER INSTINCT.
OUR GENES DRIVE US TO CLING TO OUR LIVES AND OUR PERSONALITIES.
ぐっ

ISN'T "PROTECTING ME" JUST AN EXCUSE
FOR YOU TO JUSTIFY KILLING OTHERS?
TELL ME THE TRUTH... AM I REALLY THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IN THE WORLD TO YOU?
NOW THAT YOU'RE UNBOUND BY THE MORALS AND LAWS OF SOCIETY, AND CAN KILL OTHERS AT WILL,
AREN'T YOU HAVING THE TIME OF YOUR LIFE?

AFTER ALL, NEE-SAN,
YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN A PSYCHO-PATH.
ぽたっ
ぽたっ
IT WOULD NOT EVEN SURPRISE ME...
IF YOU WERE GLAD YOU BECAME A TAKER.
ISN'T IT EASY NOW?
YOU GET TO REVEAL YOUR TRUE SELF...

TACHI-
BANA
AYAKA
—!!!
STOP PRETENDING TO BE DOING THIS TO PROTECT ME AND SHOW ME WHO YOU TRULY ARE,
15
35
YOU'RE WRONG... REIJI... YOU'RE COMPLETELY WRONG...
DON'T YOU SEE? REIJI, I... I...
IS AN EXCUSE...?
YOU THINK ME WANTING TO PROTECT YOU...

REIJI...
I...

トウ
トウ
DON'T YOU THINK YOU WENT A LITTLE TOO FAR BACK THERE?
PLEASE DO SO.
OK...

PUTTING EVERYTHING ELSE ASIDE FOR A SECOND, I THINK YOUR SISTER MEANT EVERY WORD SHE SAID ABOUT YOU, REIJI.
YOU MUST KNOW THAT.
37
APPARENTLY... SHE'S A PSYCHOPATH.
IT'S THE HIGHEST CLASS A TAKER CAN ACHIEVE, USUALLY OBTAINABLE ONLY AFTER ONE HAS MURDERED COUNTLESS OTHERS.
WHY DO YOU THINK THAT IS?
SO WHAT?
BUT MY SISTER WAS ONE FROM THE START.
...!?
トウ
トウ

IT'S BECAUSE SHE WAS ALWAYS A PSYCHOPATH...
SHE WAS ALWAYS... SOMEONE WHO COULDN'T REPRESS THE URGE TO KILL.
WHY WOULD YOU...
DID SOMEONE FROM THE GUILD TELL YOU THAT...?! DON'T TELL ME YOU BELIEVED SOMETHING THAT STUPID?!
DID YOU FORGET THAT THEY ATTACKED YOUR SISTER AT THE HOSPITAL?!
IN THE END, HOW MUCH AM I SUPPOSED TO BELIEVE?
...!?

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フ〃
DO YOU HAVE ANY PROOF
WHAT MY SISTER SAID WAS TRUE?
39
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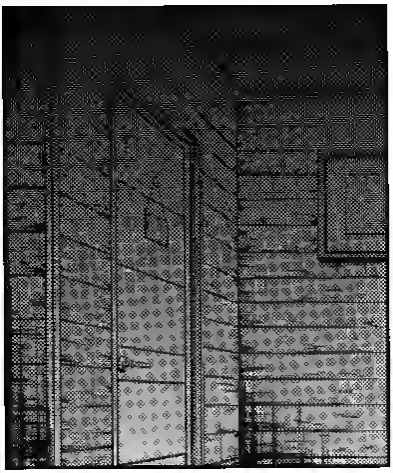
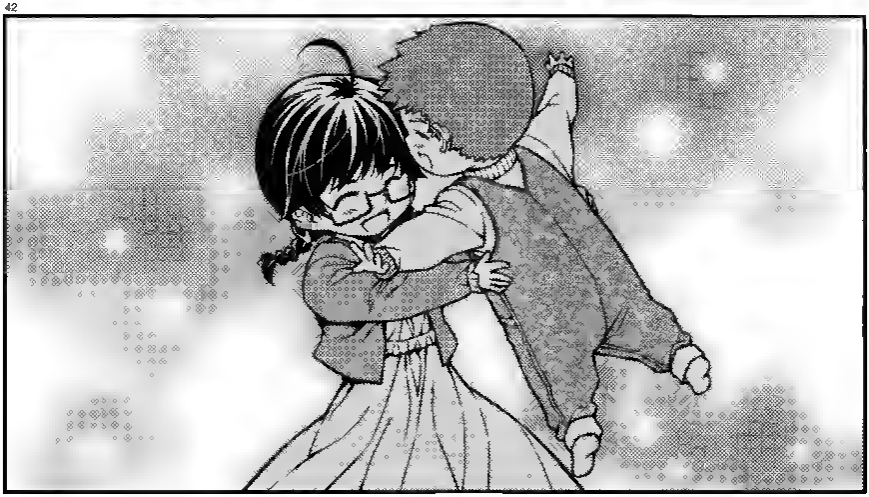
トウ
REIJI... DID YOU...?

YOU... COULDN'T HAVE...



WAS THAT REALLY ALL FOR MY SAKE?
ぶっ
ぶっ
41
FOR YOU TO JUSTIFY KILLING OTHERS?
ISN'T "PROTECTING ME" JUST AN EXCUSE
...SHOW ME WHO YOU TRULY ARE,
TACHIBANA AYAKA!!!
NO... IT WAS FOR MY OWN SAKE...
BUT THAT'S WRONG...?! I... IN ORDER TO PROTECT REIJI, I...
YOU'RE WRONG... YOU'RE WRONG... IT WAS ALL FOR YOU, REIJI...
ぶっ
ぶっ
ぶっ

AND IN ORDER TO JUSTIFY IT, I...
ENJOYED KILLING...?



I LOVE HIM...
THAT CAN'T BE IT...
SHOULD LOVE REIJI.
I KNOW THAT MUCH... I DEFINITELY...

THE DIVISION BETWEEN THE SIBLINGS GROWS EVER DEEPER.
次号につづく！ 7月号 5月27日(金)発売!!

Muda Scantrad
無駄スキャンレーション

TRANSLATOR: DOWOLF
RAW: ABCD9146
EDITORS: ABCD9146, QASZ
TYPESETTER: YOTHEN
QUALITY CHECK: ABCD9146, QASZ

Re:BIRTH
The Lunatic Taker
CH25: A BREACH OF TRUST
STORY: LIM DALL-YOUNG
ART: LEE SOO-HYON

YOU COULDN'T HAVE... DON'T TELL ME YOU CONTACTED LIFE, INC.!
ANSWER ME! YOU DIDN'T, RIGHT?!
I DID...
...!!
I DON'T REALLY TRUST THEM, NO...
BUT WHY WOULD YOU... DO YOU REALLY TRUST THEM?
THEN WHY WOULD YOU CALL THEM?!
BECAUSE I COULDN'T BELIEVE HER.

I COULDN'T BELIEVE...
MY SISTER, EITHER.
REIJI...
YOU...
!

WHAT?!
!
SHIT!
カハッ

NATSUHI!!

KA—
KATSUKI!!
REIJI...!!
THEN WE WERE BEING USED...!
WE'RE ON A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT LEVEL FROM THEM...IF THEY'RE THIS STRONG,
SHIT...!!
!
ISHIGAMI-SAN...!

IF WE ARE TO SAFELY PUT YOUR SISTER UNDER OUR PROTECTION.
I NEED YOU TO PLAY ALONG
...AN ACT...?
PLEASE RELAX. I DON'T WANT THIS TO BE ANY WORSE THAN IT HAS TO.
07

ドドド

TACHIBANA AYAKA!!!
COME OUT AND SURRENDER QUIETLY!!
IF YOU DON'T, YOUR BROTHER WILL LOSE HIS LIFE!!!

ずゅっ
IS THAT YOUR CHOICE, THEN?
しゅっ
KH?!
REIJI!!!
I'M COMING OUT NOW.

SHE DOES SEEM A LITTLE OFF... A PSYCHOPATH IS SUPPOSED TO VALUE HERSELF ABOVE ALL OTHERS, BUT...
SHE SEEMS TO BE... BOUND, SOMEHOW, TO HER BROTHER.
NEE-SAN...

SHE'S QUICK TO SHOW HER TRUE, MONSTROUS SELF.
OF COURSE, IN THE FACE OF REAL DANGER.

DROP YOUR SORCERY DEVICE.
IF YOU DO, I CAN GUARANTEE THE SAFETY OF YOUR BROTHER AND NATSUHI.

ちらっ
JUST DROP IT...
NEE-SAN...
12
トン
すぅ
ろっ

I RECOMMEND YOU NOT DO ANYTHING RASH.
USE ANY OF YOUR SKILLS, AND YOUR BROTHER'S LIFE IS FORFEIT.
NEE-SAN?!
COME WITH ME TO THE CAR.

HEY! ON YOUR FEET!
よろっ
WALK FORWARD, NICE AND SLOWLY!
14
I'M SORRY THINGS HAD TO GET VIOLENT.
BUT I'M SURE YOU UNDERSTAND THE NECESSITY.
NEE-SAN...
!
すっ
THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP...

REIJI...!
WHAT WAS WITH THAT ROUGH TREATMENT? WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO TO MY SISTER?!
THIS ISN'T WHAT YOU PROMISED!!
DON'T CAUSE SUCH A FUSS OVER SOMETHING LIKE THIS. SHE KILLED SOME OF MY PEOPLE; YOU HAVE NO GROUNDS TO STOP ME FROM EXACTING PUNISHMENT.
NATSUHI...!
"OVER SOMETHING LIKE THIS"...?!

くすっ
TO BE BLUNT... YOU'RE SAYING YOU'VE SAVED US RIGHT?
AND THAT YOU HAD TO USE SUCH HARSH METHODS CHANGES NOTHING?
YOU MUST THINK I'VE DONE A HORRIBLE THING TO YOU.
WHILE THIS MAY BE AN ADULT SITUATION, I SUPPOSE I HAVE USED YOU.
SO I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THAT
AND OFFER YOU A PLACE OF PROTECTION AT MY COMPANY, BUT...
ISHIGAMI...
WHAT OF AYAKA-SAN?
...

YES... A PUNISHMENT.
A RITUAL DESIGNED TO ALLOW HER TO ATONE FOR HER SINS.
WE WON'T KILL HER; HOWEVER, SHE MUST RECEIVE A PUNISHMENT PROPORTIONAL TO HER CRIMES.
WE HAVE BEEN FORCED TO ACCEPT THAT RESPONSIBILITY AS WELL.
A PUNISHMENT?
THE TRUTH OF THE MATTER IS THERE ARE ORDERS TO PUNISH HER AS SOON AS SHE'S FOUND.
ONE-ON-ONE.
SHE MUST SURVIVE FIGHTING A SMALL-TYPE ANGEL ON A STAGE WE'VE PREPARED,
THAT'S RIDICULOUS...

WHY NOT JUST KILL HER YOURSELVES AND GET IT OVER WITH?!
THAT'S COMPLETELY SCREWED UP! YOU WANT HER TO FIGHT AN ANGEL, ALONE?!
13
ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS ENSURE SHE LIVES AND IS PARDONED.
JUSTICE MUST BE SERVED. IF SHE LOSES, THEN OF COURSE SHE DIES. BUT IF SHE WINS, HER SINS ARE FORGIVEN...
AND ALLOW ME TO FINISH...
WELL, IF YOU WOULD CALM DOWN FOR A SECOND
...!?
I'M SURE YOU'RE OLD ENOUGH TO SEE WHERE THIS IS GOING, RIGHT?
IF WE DO, THE REST OF THE GUILD SHOULD ACCEPT MY DECISION.
WE MUST GUARANTEE TACHIBANA AYAKA SURVIVES THE FIGHT.

YOUR SISTER LIVES, AND WE HAVE OUR JUSTICE: A METHOD THAT SATISFIES ALL.
OF COURSE, SINCE YOUR SISTER'S A PSYCHOPATH, I MUST INSIST ON KEEPING HER UNDER OUR WATCH FROM NOW ON...
WELL? HOW DOES THAT SOUND?
WELL—I MEAN, IF YOU'RE TELLING ME THE TRUTH... THEN OF COURSE...
ふっ
THEN WHY DON'T WE SIT DOWN BEFORE WE GO OVER KEY DETAILS?
LET'S HEAD OUT TO MY CAR.

A FEROCITY BEYOND YOUR YEARS... THAT'S THE MARK OF A PSYCHOPATH...
YOU'VE CLUNG SO STRONGLY TO HATRED...
MY GOOD-NESS, HOW SCARY~
WHAT IS IT? WOULD YOU LIKE TO SHOW OFF THE SKILL YOU'RE SO PROUD OF?

JUST TRY IT.
JUST TRY AND SEE IF THAT SKILL OF YOURS CAN KILL ME.
HMM, YOU'RE A SLY ONE, AREN'T YOU? QUICK TO TURN TAIL WHEN THERE'S NO CHANCE OF VICTORY.
WELL, THAT'S SIMPLY WHO YOU ARE:
THAT'S WHY YOUR BROTHER SOLD YOU OUT.
SOMEONE WHO CARES FOR HERSELF ABOVE ALL OTHERS.
SO HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE SET ASIDE?

DON'T INTERRUPT ME!!!
UMMPH!
UMMPH!!
UMMP PHHHH!!
...!!!
ALL I'VE DONE IS TOLD YOU THE TRUTH, SO WHY BLAME THE MESSENGER?
IT'S ALMOST LIKE YOU THINK I'M LYING.
WHY DON'T YOU SEE THE TRUTH WITH YOUR OWN EYES?

TAKE A GOOD, HARD LOOK.

LOOKS LIKE HE CHOSE HIS GIRLFRIEND OVER HIS LOONY SISTER.
BUT ANYONE WOULD. SO TRY NOT TO TAKE IT PERSONALLY.
THAT'S WHAT LITTLE BROTHERS DO AROUND THAT AGE, RIGHT? HEHHEH.
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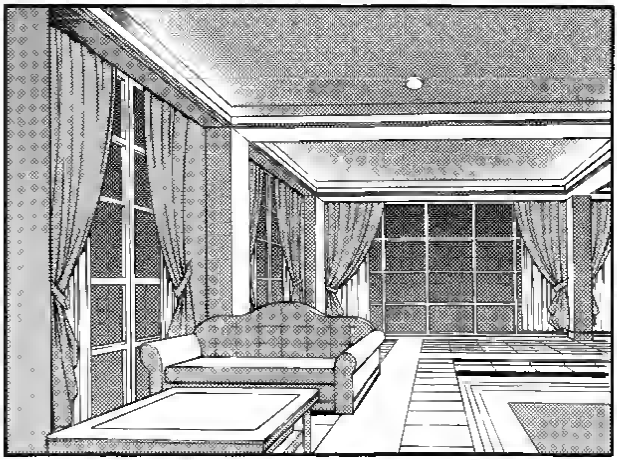

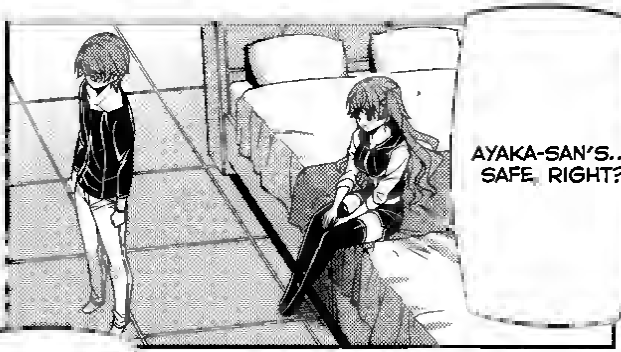
AYAKA-SAN'S... SAFE, RIGHT?

REIJI, CAN WE...
THEY'RE THE ONLY ONES...
CAN WE REALLY TRUST ISHIGAMI?

STRONG ENOUGH TO CONTAIN NEE-SAN'S INSANITY.
STILL... I JUST CAN'T SEEM TO TRUST HIM...
I DO.
...!!
I NO LONGER HAVE ANY CHOICE...
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ぶるる
BUT TO TRUST ISHIGAMI-SAN.

IT SEEMS THAT THE SHEER IDIOCY OF THE YOUNGER BROTHER HAS MADE THINGS PROGRESS MORE SMOOTHLY THAN I HAD ANTICIPATED.
ちょこ
HOWEVER... SHE WAS FAR TOO COOPERATIVE.
EVEN IF WE IGNORE HOW OFTEN SHE ACTS TO PROTECT HER BROTHER,
27
FOR A PSYCHOPATH...
DOESN'T SHE SEEM A LITTLE OFF?

THAT IS SIMPLY A QUIRK WE SEE WHILE SHE IS FAR AWAY FROM THE SPECTER OF DEATH.
AS SOON AS SHE HAS TO FACE DEATH, A PSYCHO-PATH WILL INSTINCTIVELY CONSIDER ONLY HERSELF.
WE SHOULD FORCE REIJI TO WITNESS THAT SIDE OF HER.
WE SHOULD SHOW HIM THAT TACHI-BANA AYAKA
IS REALLY THE TYPE OF PERSON THAT CAN THROW AWAY HER LITTLE BROTHER AT ANY TIME...
28
ALL THAT REMAINS IS TO HAVE THE PRINCESS...
ARE WE READY TO HOLD THE PUNISHMENT DURING THE NEXT INTERSPATIAL TIME?
ONCE HE KNOWS THAT, REIJI-KUN SHOULD CHOOSE TO WORK WITH US BY HIS OWN VOLITION. AND HIS PHANTOM KILLER IS QUITE THE VALUABLE COMBAT ABILITY.
I'LL TAKE CARE OF THAT MY-SELF.
PREPARA-TIONS ARE NEARLY COMPLETE.

YES, SIR.
WHEN I'M DONE, I'LL GO VISIT TACHIBANA AYAKA. PLEASE GO ON AHEAD OF ME AND CHECK ON HER CONDITION.
SHOULD WE HAVE
TACHIBANA AYAKA FAIL TO SURVIVE THE PUNISHMENT?
カッ
カッ
ぴたっ
AH, I ALMOST FORGOT TO ASK...

WE NEED TO PUT ON A PROPER SHOW FOR NIKAIDOU OUJI.
AND THE MEMBERS OF THE GUILD WHO WILL GATHER FOR THE PUNISHMENT MUST RECEIVE A SUITABLE SACRIFICE.
カチャ
カッ
カッ
AS YOU WISH.

IT WILL BE SHE HERSELF WHO DECIDES WHETHER SHE LIVES OR DIES.
WILL YOU...
IF SHE CAN ESCAPE, SHE WILL SURVIVE.
KILL HER?
IT'S ALL UP TO HER.

BUT IN THAT CASE,
WE GAIN CONTROL OF THE BROTHER...
SO THAT MEANS YOU INTEND TO SEPARATE THE SIBLINGS.
…
カタッ…
HAVE YOU BECOME
THE KIND OF ADULT YOU DESPISED?
YOU WERE DIFFERENT, BACK WHEN YOU WERE A CHILD.
ぎゅっ

YOU FELT SO STRONGLY THE PAIN OF OTHERS, AND TRIED TO LIVE AN HONEST LIFE...
YOU WERE THE SAME AS HIM, ONCE. YOU HELD THE CLASS ANTI-THETICAL TO PSY-CHOPATHS...
YOU WERE AN ANTI-SOCIAL HYSTERIC, RIGHT.
RYUUSUKE?
I'VE LEARNED THAT WHAT IS "CORRECT" VARIES DEPENDING ON THE TIME AND PLACE.
BUT THOSE IDEALS DID NOTHING
I WAS LIKE REIJI, ONCE.
I BELIEVED IN NOBLE IDEALS, BACK THEN...
TO PROTECT WHAT WAS PRECIOUS TO ME...

WHAT'S PRECIOUS TO YOU... BUT HAVEN'T YOU MADE TOO MUCH?
I DON'T NEED ANY OF THIS, RYUU...
I WOULD GO ANYWHERE, AS LONG AS I HAD YOU BESIDE ME.
WE COULD LIVE AS WE DID BACK THEN...
THE TWO OF US COULD LIVE A QUIET LIFE...
ぎゅっ
...

ぎゅっ

HUMANS ARE SELFISH CREATURES, THINKING OF NO ONE OTHER THAN THEMSELVES...
AND WHEN GOD GREW BORED OF CARING FOR THEM, HE CREATED TAKERS...
HOWEVER, WITHOUT SOME SYSTEM OF ORDER, WE TAKERS CANNOT COMPLETE OUR MISSION.
SOMEONE HAS TO DO IT... I WANT YOU TO UNDERSTAND THAT, GALADEA...
I'M THE SAME MAN I WAS BACK THEN. I'M JUST A BIT TALLER, NOW.
I BELIEVE...

THAT IF YOU'RE THE PERSON I KNEW,
YOU WON'T KILL HER.

HOW ARE YOU DOING,
TACHIBANA AYAKA-KUN?

KYOUKA TELLS ME YOU'VE BEEN QUITE COOPERATIVE. IS YOUR BROTHER'S SAFETY THAT IMPORTANT TO YOU?
I'D LIKE TO LEARN YOUR TRUE MOTIVE.
38
DON'T YOU WANT TO LIVE?
YOUR INSTINCTS AS A PSYCHOPATH SHOULD COMPEL YOU TO.
I WANT... TO LIVE.
BUT FIRST...
I WANT TO KILL YOU.

IS THIS REALLY FOR HER BROTHER'S SAKE?
AND YET SHE STILL REFRAINS FROM USING HER SKILLS...

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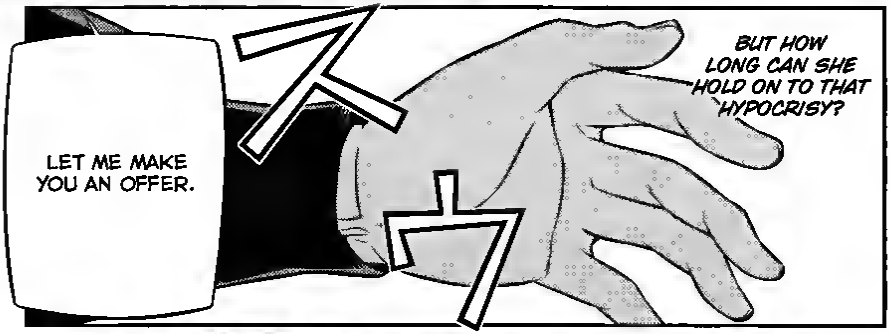
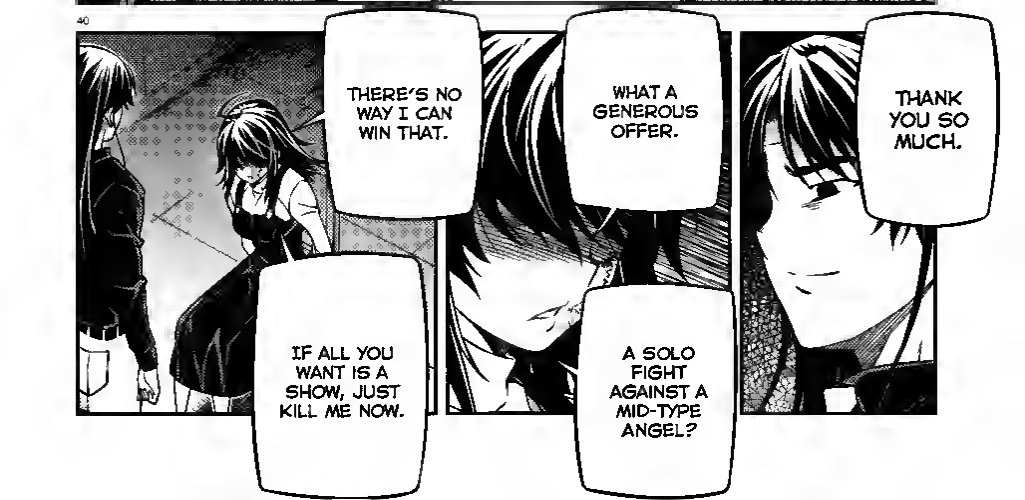

LET ME MAKE YOU AN OFFER.
BUT HOW LONG CAN SHE HOLD ON TO THAT HYPOCRISY?

SO LET ME GIVE YOU AN OPPORTUNITY...

TRAITORS WHO KILL THEIR COMRADES MUST BE ERASED... THAT IS THIS ORGANIZATION'S CARDINAL RULE.
BUT YOUR BROTHER COMMITTED NO WRONGDOING.

IF YOU EMERGE VICTORIOUS, YOUR SINS WILL BE FORGIVEN.
WE HAVE PREPARED A STAGE WHERE YOU WILL FIGHT A MID-TYPE ANGEL, ONE-ON-ONE.
IF YOU'RE DESTINED TO DIE... THEN WHY NOT CLING TO ONE LAST CHANCE?


THERE'S NO WAY I CAN WIN THAT.
WHAT A GENEROUS OFFER.
THANK YOU SO MUCH.
IF ALL YOU WANT IS A SHOW, JUST KILL ME NOW.
A SOLO FIGHT AGAINST A MID-TYPE ANGEL?

IN THAT CASE...
WHY DON'T YOU FLEE?
...a!?
IF YOU SO DESIRED, I COULD PREPARE YOU AN ESCAPE ROUTE.
AND I COULD CHANGE THE ANGEL TO BE A SMALL-TYPE. YOU COULD CERTAINLY HANDLE THAT.
YOU WOULD HAVE ME ABANDON REIJI...
AND FLEE BY MYSELF?
IS THAT NOT TO YOUR LIKING?

OR WOULD YOU RATHER FALL IN BATTLE
FOR THE SAKE OF THE BROTHER WHO SOLD YOU OUT?

!
THE ANGEL... WILL BE A SMALL-TYPE, RIGHT?
I WILL...
ACCEPT THAT PROPOSAL.

IN THE END, THAT'S A PSYCHOPATH FOR YOU.
LOOKS LIKE ALL THAT STUFF ABOUT HER BROTHER WAS JUST TALK.
IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH HER BEING A PSYCHOPATH.
!
ALL HUMANS...
ARE LIKE THAT...
TO PROTECT THAT WHICH IS IMPORTANT...
次号につづく! 8月号 6月27日(月)発売!!